



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION FOR INSTITUTIONAL INSPECTIONS
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FOUNDER
Mrs. Sybil Brand

CHAIRPERSON
Mrs. Eleanor R. Montañó

VICE CHAIRPERSON
Mrs. Helen H. Stathatos

Mr. Frank S. Bacio
Mr. Vito Cannella
Ms. Rita Hall
Mr. John A. Hammargren
Mr. Carl E. Moore

MINUTES OF THE **SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION FOR INSTITUTIONAL INSPECTIONS** **REGULAR WEEKLY MEETING** **AUGUST 8, 2007**

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Montañó called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m.

OPENING CEREMONIES

Chair Montañó led the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silence.

ATTENDANCE

Present

Chair Eleanor R. Montañó
Vice Chair Helen H. Stathatos
Frank Bacio
Vito Cannella
Rita Hall
John Hammargren

Excused Absence

Carl E. Moore

Others Present

Sandra Barbee, Chief, Commission Services
Janice A. Davis, Commission Services Staff
Andrew Sevrin, Commission Services Staff
Garen Khachian, Commission Service Staff

APPROVAL OF JULY 25, 2007 MEETING MINUTES

On motion of Commissioner Hammargren, seconded by Vice Chair Stathatos, and unanimously carried, the minutes of July 25, 2007 were approved, with the following change:

- On page 3, under Probation Department, change "Group home will be closing" to "Group homes will be closing"...

CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Montaña reported on 2 articles:

- “Agency Misspent Millions, Audit Finds”, The Daily Breeze, August 8, 2007, regarding the Department of Children and Family Services misspending millions of dollars on unnecessary and overpriced supplies, violating County spending limits, according to an audit released Tuesday.
- “Letter to the Los Angeles Times” from Chief Robert Taylor, Director, Probation Department, Los Angeles Times, August 7, 2007, regarding the juvenile wing of Metropolitan State Hospital being closed and the problems it will pose in the future.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Commissioner Bacio reported the current balance of the Commission's Charitable Fund is \$1,083.07. The fund total is reduced due to expenses incurred on July 31, 2007:

- Two \$250 Scholarships.
- Catering bill of \$55.43 for the Scholarship reception.

STAFF REPORT

Ms. Janice Davis, Staff, Commission Services, reported the following:

- The Board of Supervisors approved mandatory Cultural Diversity and Sexual Harassment training for the Commissioners. The Commission will be kept apprised when this training will be made available.
- The Shamrock Cottage #4 closure was voluntary, per Ms. Elizabeth Howard, Group Home Supervisor of the Department of Children and Family Services.

CORRESPONDENCE

Chair Montaña read a letter of thanks received from Captain Patrick Jordan on behalf of Sheriff Lee Baca, regarding the letter of commendation from the Commission commending Sergeant Leo Bauer for his excellent work with the Christmas gift drive for foster youth.

FACILITY INSPECTION REPORTS FROM JULY 26 TO AUGUST 7, 2007

St. Paul Group Home – 58, #5 - Commissioners Bacio and Hall

The facility was visited on May 31, 2007, and found to be in satisfactory condition.

Areas of Concern: Two smoke alarms in the hallway are inoperative; evacuation plan needs to be posted.

Children Are Our Future (San Jose) – 8, #5- Vice Chair Stathatos

This facility was visited on July 26, 2007, and found to be in good condition.

Children Are Our Future (Saticoy) – 8, #2- Vice Chair Stathatos

This facility was visited on July 26, 2007, and found to be in satisfactory condition.

Long Beach Youth Transitional Housing – 26, #4- Commissioners Bacio and Hall

This facility was visited on July 26, 2007, and found to be in satisfactory condition.

Area of Concern: Smoke detector needs battery.

Children Are Our Future (Kezios) – 9, #2- Vice Chair Stathatos

This facility was visited on July 27, 2007, and found to be in satisfactory condition.

Dream Home, Inc. – 16, #5 – Commissioner Montaña

This facility was visited on July 30, 2007, and found to be in satisfactory condition.

Children Are Our Future (Legg) – 9, #1- Vice Chair Stathatos

This facility was visited on July 30, 2007, and found to be in satisfactory condition.

Children Are Our Future (Terry) – 10, #4- Vice Chair Stathatos

This facility was visited on July 30, 2007, and found to be in good condition.

Family Solutions – 20, #4 –Commissioner Hammargren

This facility was visited on August 1, 2007, and was found to be in excellent condition.

Life Books made by the clients were very creative and original.

Leroy's Boys Home – 35, #4 - Commissioners Bacio, Hall, and Hammargren

This facility was visited on August 2, 2007, and found to be in good condition. They are in the process of installing a new fire alarm system.

C&R Masada – 13, #3 – Chair Montaña

This facility was visited on August 3, 2007, and found to be in satisfactory condition.

Area of Concern: Fire extinguishers need to be charged.

Dream Home Care #2 – 16, #4 – Commissioners Hammargren and Montaña

This facility was visited on August 6, 2007, and found to be in satisfactory condition.

Area of Concern: Screens for two crawl spaces need to be fixed.

Dorothy Kirby Center – Commissioners Bacio and Hall

This facility was visited on August 7, 2007, and found to be in satisfactory condition.

Area of Concern: Window seals need painting; new flooring needed in some units.

Dream Home #1 – 17, #1 – Commissioners Hammargren and Montaña

This facility was visited on August 7, 2007, and was found to be in satisfactory condition.

Commissioner Bacio reviewed the Audit Report with the Commission for the Maryvale Group Home – 40, #1, dated July 5, 2007 and reported that all areas of concern have been corrected.

NEW BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Vice Chair Stathatos reported the following:

- “Mental Ward May Be Closed”, Los Angeles Times, August 6, 2007, regarding Metropolitan State Hospital closing down its children’s mental ward and the State government’s reasons for the action.

MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA (To be presented and placed on a future agenda)

There was none.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chair Montaña adjourned the meeting in memory of KTLA news reporter Hal Fishman at 11:37 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice A. Davis
Commission Services Division